

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please **amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 21,** as follows:

Sync detection may be qualified by determining a part of the sync to be detected. Thus, parts of the sync may be ignored (usually the beginning ~~[[of]]~~ or the end), and/or ~~[[part]]~~ parts of contiguous data may be included for detection. The data to be detected will ~~hereafter~~ hereinafter be called a "sync pattern".

Please **amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 1,** as follows:

Data sent by such computing devices is generally sent in bursts, which result in data packets 13 of data ~~[[13]]~~ that need to be smoothed in order that they can be sequentially recorded by the tape drive. Therefore, the buffer within the control circuitry 8 buffers these bursts and ~~allows~~ causes continuous data 14 to be ~~continuously 14~~ written to the tape 10.

Please **amend the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 12,** as follows:

When reading backwards along the tape, a back sync and a portion of the VFO field 53 ~~display~~ have the same 21-bit pattern as

the forward sync pattern. Their detection is, therefore, treated in the same way, including VFO detection enabling their detection.

Please **amend the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 5,** as follows:

The second priority route is to move back to the "strict sniffing" state 502 via path 514. Path 514 is activated if the whole of the resync is detected ~~whilst~~ while the window is open (found_strict_resync), the second byte of the resync is detected (found_resync2), or the window closes with nothing further being detected (window_closed). It will be appreciated that the window is closed a predetermined time after it is opened and that as discussed above the second byte of the resync is more robust than the first because it cannot occur in uncorrupted user data. ~~it is because that~~ Because the second byte of the resync is more robust than the first, ~~that~~ if it is detected within the window, ~~it~~ the second byte of the resync is accepted without further checking.